

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000844

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. ⁷ : G06F 17/60 153:00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI: G06F-153#00/IC, PD<=2003-07		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	US 6681990 B2 (VOGLER et al.) 27 January 2004 Abstract & Line 34, Column 1 – Line 39, Column 2	1-31
X	US 6092726 A (TOUSSANT et al.) 25 July 2000 Abstract & Line 5, Column 2 – Line 28, Column 3	32-56
X	GB 2372844 A (MCKINLAY) 4 September 2002 Abstract & Line 13, Page 1 – Line 15, Page 4	1-31
X	GB 2310744 A (I S R (LOGISTICS) LIMITED) 3 September 1997 Abstract & Line 22, Page 1 – Line 30, Page 16	1-31
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 31 August 2004		Date of mailing of the international search report 10 SEP 2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer J.W. THOMSON Telephone No : (02) 6283 2214

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US Statutory Invention Registration H1743 (GRAVES et al.) 4 August 1998 Abstract & Line 5, Column 2 – Line 10, Column 4	1-31
X	US 5712989 A (JOHNSEN et al.) 27 January 1998 Abstract, Line 66, Column 1 – Line 27, Column 2 & Figure 1	1-31

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
US 6681990		US 2003132853	US 2003132854	US 2003132855	
		US 2003139968	US 2003144985	US 2003158857	
		US 2003173403	US 2003222141	US 2003227392	
		US 2004024768	WO 03060752	WO 03102845	
US 6092726		AU 91133/98	BR 9811726	CA 2300901	
		EP 1005629	US 5918197	WO 9909380	
GB 2372844					
GB 2310744		AU 22240/97	EP 0883849	US 6012041	
		WO 9732264			
US 5712989					
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.					
END OF ANNEX					

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Claims 1 & 21: Relate to a method system for managing product inventory levels.

Claims 32 & 47: Relate to a method system for counting product.

These groups of claims are not linked as to form a single general inventive concept, that is, they do not share any special technical features. Therefore these claims do not relate to one invention only.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.